GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3556
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2002
SALE OF POSTAGE STAMPS
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;TUFANI SAROJ

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of postage stamps, envelopes, inland letters and post-cards has declined during the recent years;

(b) if so, the details of fall in sale of postal material during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

(c) the reasons for decline in sale of postal material;

(d) whether the Government are considering to evolve any scheme for increasing sale of said material ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. S PASWAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The sale of postage stamps and stationery declined from Rs. 927.56 crores in 1999-2000 to Rs. 839.05 crores in the year 2000-2001 and showed a marginal increase to Rs. 852.37 crores in 2001-2002.

(c) to (e) The declining trend in sale of postage stamps etc. should be seen along with the progressive use of multi-purpose counter machines and franking machines where postage is realized in cash. Between 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 postage realized in cash increased from Rs. 651.87 crores to Rs. 665.20 crores and shot up further to Rs. 828.65 crores in 2001-2002. Expansion of facility for access to basic postal services is provided under the Plan schemes.